

In the Claims:

1. (previously presented) The digital half-duplex communication device, including:
 - a scalable digital vocoder;
 - a scalable channel coder;
 - the scalable digital vocoder and the scalable channel coder being controlled by a supporting protocol that transmits predetermined digital audio quality and predetermined audio output bit rate information at regular intervals to the digital half-duplex communication device;
 - and
 - wherein the predetermined digital audio quality and predetermined audio output bit rate information are transmitted by allocating extra bits in a reverse channel.
2. (canceled)
3. (original) The digital half-duplex communication device of claim 1, wherein the communication device comprises a digital two-way radio.

4. (previously presented) A communication system, comprising:
- a transmitting device providing a supporting protocol that transmits bit error rate (BER) information at regular intervals to a receiving device;
 - the receiving device, including:
 - a speech coder;
 - a channel coder; and
 - the channel coder and speech coder output bit rates are derived from the BER information; wherein
 - the BER information is transmitted by allocating extra bits in a reverse channel.
5. (Original) A digital two-way radio, including:
- a digital vocoder having a scalable output bit rate; and
 - an adaptive channel coder to adjust the output bit rate according to one of bit error rate and channel error conditions.

6. (Original) A method for coding audio in a two-way radio having a channel coder and a speech coder, including:

receiving an audio signal;

generating a variable speech bit rate and a variable channel bit rate; and

applying the variable speech bit rate and the variable channel bit rate to the channel coder and speech coder at regular intervals so as to approximate a predetermined relationship between audio quality and range.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of applying further comprises:

applying the variable speech bit rate and the variable channel bit rate to the channel coder and speech coder at regular intervals so as to approximate a continuous linear relationship between audio quality and range.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of applying further comprises:

applying the variable speech bit rate and the variable channel bit rate to the channel coder and speech coder at regular intervals so as to approximate a continuous stepped relationship between audio quality and range.

9. (previously presented) A method for coding audio in a two-way radio having a channel coder and a speech coder, comprising the steps of:

- receiving an audio signal;
- determining the bit error rate (BER) of the audio signal;
- generating a variable speech bit rate and a variable channel bit rate from the BER;
- scaling the speech coder with the variable speech bit rate;
- scaling the channel coder with the variable channel bit rate; and
- controlling the variable speech bit rate and the variable channel bit rate on the basis of bit error rate (BER) of the received audio signal that is received in a reverse channel.

10. (previously presented) A method for coding in a two-way digital radio, comprising the steps of:

- receiving an audio signal at a vocoder;
- scaling the vocoder output;
- scaling a channel coder output based on the vocoder output;
- controlling the output bit rate of the speech coder and channel coder on the basis of message error rate/bit error rate (MER/BER) information of the received signal;
- transmitting quality requirement information to a transmitting device in a reverse channel; and
- generating scalable speech coder and channel coder frames.

11. (Original) A digital half-duplex radio, comprising a receiver receiving signaling frames containing a bit error rate (BER), the receiver utilizing the BER for selectively controlling a radio frequency (RF) power output and source coding bit rate for the digital radio.

12. (previously presented) A digital radio, comprising:
a receiver receiving signaling frames containing a bit error rate (BER), the receiver utilizing the BER for selectively controlling a radio frequency (RF) power output and source coding bit rate for the digital radio; and

when the source coding bit rate is selected:

the BER being mapped to generate speech coder and channel coder steps;

the radio further comprising:

a transmitter adjusting for forward error correction (FEC) and speech coding rate in response to the speech coder and channel coder steps; and

the receiver predicting the FEC and speech coding format from the BER sent in a reverse signaling frame.

13. (previously presented) A digital two-way radio, including:
- a digital speech coder scaled to provide an audio quality that varies linearly with audio quality measurements computed at a receiver, the audio quality being mapped according to variable length channel coding and variable length source coding rate received in a reverse channel;
 - an adaptive channel coder having an adjustable output bit rate; and
 - a supporting protocol that transmits bit rate information at regular intervals to a supporting communication device.